

"The City of Philadelphia has for many years enjoyed an enviable reputation both at home and abroad. The regularity of her right-angled, well-swept streets, and thoroughly washed gutters, *have* been a source of pride to her citizens, and a subject of special commendation by strangers. Within the past two or three years, however, almost an entire change has been experienced in that respect."

"We still incline to the opinion that the time has fully arrived when all burial-grounds and vaults attached thereto, in the thickly built districts of the city, should by legislative enactment be forever closed. We believe that danger may attend this practice, and hope an effort will be made by the public authorities to abolish all intermural interments."

The report of the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, for 1863, is a much better drawn up report—more valuable in all its statistical relations, and more reliable in its general deductions. It will not be necessary for us, however, to enter here into any examination or analysis of it, inasmuch as the entire ground it goes over in respect to the movement of the population of Philadelphia will be found occupied by the report to the Board of Health, on Meteorology and Epidemics for 1863, published entire in another department of this Journal.

One portion, however, of the registration report may demand a passing remark; it is that which has reference to the nomenclature employed by physicians in making their returns of deaths to the Board of Health. We are as deeply impressed as any one with the importance of the adoption in our bills of mortality of a simple, intelligible, and uniform nomenclature of diseases, and, as far as possible, in the English tongue. We regret that there should be so much obscurity in the mortuary tables of our own city as there certainly is, resulting from the looseness, inaccuracy, and vagueness—often, indeed, the perfect absurdity of the names given to the diseases reported as the causes of death.

This defect in our bills of mortality is to be ascribed almost exclusively to the provisions of the registration law; by which the certificate of anybody and everybody assuming the name of physician has to be received—of the uneducated pretender, of the unscrupulous charlatan, and, in certain contingencies, of an illiterate nurse, undertaker, or neighbour. It may, perchance, happen that the very young practitioner will be found indulging, occasionally, in a stilted nomenclature unfamiliar to all beyond the profession, and by them scarcely tolerated; but to intimate that it is a common practice of well-educated physicians to employ, more especially in their certificates to the Board of Health in cases of death, high-sounding names for diseases which can be equally as well identified by more familiar terms, and this simply for the purpose of astonishing, by a show of their learning, those who may have occasion to consult the registry of deaths—and such a charge is at least insinuated in the report before us—is, we assert, a libel upon the profession, and appears with a very ill grace in a document drawn up professedly by an unprofessional, though, we believe, a very effective officer of the Board.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXII.—*On Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, and Sciatica, their Pathology, Symptoms, and Treatment.* By HENRY WILLIAM FULLER, M. D. *Cantab.*, etc. etc. From the last London edition. 8vo. pp. 424. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston. 1864.

It is not necessary that we should enter, on the present occasion, into an analysis of the work of Dr. Fuller. In our notice of the former editions we presented a full exposition of the views advocated by the author in regard to the pathology and treatment of the several forms of rheumatism indicated in its title, together with the further elucidations of those views presented by him in his second edition.

In the third edition now before us, the work throughout has undergone a

very full and careful revision, while many practical suggestions have been added, and a record given of Dr. Fuller's experience as to the action of remedies which have been recently introduced. He reiterates, after further trial of the method of treatment proposed by him, the confidence he had before expressed as to its efficacy. He has verified by enlarged experience its power to subdue the pain and inflammation of rheumatism within a few days, and if vigorously carried out, to protect completely the heart from mischief.

In respect to the nature of rheumatic gout and its entire independence of both gout and rheumatism, the views advanced originally by our author have received confirmation from the published researches of Adams, Garrod, and others. Dr. Fuller assures us that extended observation has led him to believe that when properly managed this disease is one far less obstinate and intractable than it has seemed to be under the ordinary plans of treatment.

As to the nature of chronic rheumatism, Dr. Fuller believes that much still remains to be ascertained. He is convinced that many maladies are included under that comprehensive term "which have nothing in common more than have smallpox and chickenpox." He has endeavoured as much as possible to separate the different varieties of disease included under the name of chronic rheumatism, and to indicate the treatment best adapted to the removal of each.

Dr. Fuller gives the result of his experience of the very favourable effects derived from injections of morphia into the cellular tissue at the vicinity of the local suffering. He also specifies the conditions under which galvanism, electricity, and other remedies prove useful. The histories of a few cases are appended illustrative of the treatment recommended.

The entire volume is deserving of a careful study; every page of it is replete with instructive matter.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXIII.—*Handbook of Uterine Therapeutics.* By EDWARD JOHN TILT, M. D., etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 280. WILLIAM WOOD & Co. New York, 1854.

THE present work is, properly speaking, a sequel to the author's treatise on "uterine and ovarian inflammation, and diseases of menstruation," which has already passed through several editions. It is not to be viewed simply as a reproduction of what had been already said on uterine therapeutics, but as embodying the results of twenty-five years of the author's practice. Its main object is "to determine the real value of those various modes of treating inflammatory affections of the womb that have been more or less exclusively advocated by eminent practitioners during the last fifty years."

Although we do not much admire the arrangement of the present handbook, we admit, nevertheless, that it furnishes an admirable guide to uterine therapeutics. The practical comment it presents on the leading plans that have been proposed for the removal of the several womb complaints cannot fail to lead, whoever will give it an attentive study, to a correct judgment as to their relative value under specific circumstances. The very repetition to which the plan adopted by Dr. Tilt gives rise, is adapted to impress upon the student a knowledge of the morbid conditions of the uterine organs under the different aspects they present in practice.

It would be scarcely possible to furnish an analysis of the several chapters of the work. Even a notice of the author's solution of the more important questions embraced in it would swell our notice far beyond the limits to which we are necessarily limited.

Dr. Tilt resolves all the diseases of the uterus into the inflammatory and the nervous. The correct diagnosis of these two morbid conditions of the organ and its appendages is of no little importance, not only in reference to treatment, but also to prognosis. When found to be simply nervous, we feel, for the most part, reassured as to their result, whereas we know, as the author remarks, "that although uterine inflammation rarely leads to a fatal termination, chronic ute-